

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2023 and 2024 HB2995

Introduced 2/16/2023, by Rep. Jed Davis

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 520/1-15

Amends the Foster Parent Law. Provides that foster parents have a right to receive an initial payment of \$480 per child to be made within 24 hours of a permanent placement. Provides that if the final monthly payment for a child amounts to \$480 or more, the amount of \$480 shall be deducted from the final monthly payment. Provides that if the final monthly payment amounts to less than \$480, the final monthly payment shall not be made.

LRB103 26969 KTG 53335 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- Section 5. The Foster Parent Law is amended by changing Section 1-15 as follows:
- 6 (20 ILCS 520/1-15)

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- Sec. 1-15. Foster parent rights. A foster parent's rights include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 9 (1) The right to be treated with dignity, respect, and consideration as a professional member of the child welfare team.
 - (2) The right to be given standardized pre-service training and appropriate ongoing training to meet mutually assessed needs and improve the foster parent's skills.
 - (3) The right to be informed as to how to contact the appropriate child placement agency in order to receive information and assistance to access supportive services for children in the foster parent's care.
 - (4) The right to receive timely financial reimbursement commensurate with the care needs of the child as specified in the service plan. This shall include an initial payment of \$480 per child to be made within 24 hours of a permanent placement. If the final monthly

payment for a child amounts to \$480 or more, the amount of \$480 shall be deducted from the final monthly payment. If the final monthly payment amounts to less than \$480, the final monthly payment shall not be made.

- (5) The right to be provided a clear, written understanding of a placement agency's plan concerning the placement of a child in the foster parent's home. Inherent in this right is the foster parent's responsibility to support activities that will promote the child's right to relationships with his or her own family and cultural heritage.
- (6) The right to be provided a fair, timely, and impartial investigation of complaints concerning the foster parent's licensure, to be provided the opportunity to have a person of the foster parent's choosing present during the investigation, and to be provided due process during the investigation; the right to be provided the opportunity to request and receive mediation or an administrative review of decisions that affect licensing parameters, or both mediation and an administrative review; and the right to have decisions concerning a licensing corrective action plan specifically explained and tied to the licensing standards violated.
- (7) The right, at any time during which a child is placed with the foster parent, to receive additional or necessary information that is relevant to the care of the

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- (7.5) The right to be given information concerning a child (i) from the Department as required under subsection (u) of Section 5 of the Children and Family Services Act and (ii) from a child welfare agency as required under subsection (c-5) of Section 7.4 of the Child Care Act of 1969.
- (8) The right to be notified of scheduled meetings and staffings concerning the foster child in order to actively participate in the case planning and decision-making process regarding the child, including individual service administrative planning meetings, case reviews. interdisciplinary staffings, and individual educational planning meetings; the right to be informed of decisions made by the courts or the child welfare agency concerning the child; the right to provide input concerning the plan of services for the child and to have that input given full consideration in the same manner as information presented by any other professional on the team; and the right to communicate with other professionals who work with the foster child within the context of the team, including therapists, physicians, attending health care professionals, and teachers.
- (9) The right to be given, in a timely and consistent manner, any information a case worker has regarding the child and the child's family which is pertinent to the

care and needs of the child and to the making of a permanency plan for the child. Disclosure of information concerning the child's family shall be limited to that information that is essential for understanding the needs of and providing care to the child in order to protect the rights of the child's family. When a positive relationship exists between the foster parent and the child's family, the child's family may consent to disclosure of additional information.

- (10) The right to be given reasonable written notice of (i) any change in a child's case plan, (ii) plans to terminate the placement of the child with the foster parent, and (iii) the reasons for the change or termination in placement. The notice shall be waived only in cases of a court order or when the child is determined to be at imminent risk of harm.
- (11) The right to be notified in a timely and complete manner of all court hearings, including notice of the date and time of the court hearing, the name of the judge or hearing officer hearing the case, the location of the hearing, and the court docket number of the case; and the right to intervene in court proceedings or to seek mandamus under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.
- (12) The right to be considered as a placement option when a foster child who was formerly placed with the foster parent is to be re-entered into foster care, if

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that placement is consistent with the best interest of the child and other children in the foster parent's home.

- (13) The right to have timely access to the child placement agency's existing appeals process and the right to be free from acts of harassment and retaliation by any other party when exercising the right to appeal.
- (14) The right to be informed of the Foster Parent Hotline established under Section 35.6 of the Children and Family Services Act and all of the rights accorded to foster parents concerning reports of misconduct by Department employees, service providers, or contractors, confidential handling of those reports, and investigation by the Inspector General appointed under Section 35.5 of the Children and Family Services Act.

15 (Source: P.A. 99-581, eff. 1-1-17.)